

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AF-06 EA-07 EUR-12

DIWY-01 DHA-02 SCCT-01 USIE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00 /100 R

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S/S:CABORG

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, US, IS, UN

SUBJECT: JEWISH REACTION TO UNGA VOTE ON WICWY RESOLUTIONS

REF: USUN 6860

1. HERMAN EDELSBERG, OFFICIAL OF WASHINGTON OFFICE OF B'NAI B'RITH CALLED DEPARTMENT TO INFORM OF REACTION OF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TO SUBJECT VOTE OF DECEMBER 15 (SEE REFTEL).

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2. EDELSBERG CONFIRMED NEWS REPORTS (N.Y. TIMES, DEC. 17)

THAT JEWISH LEADERSHIP HAS EXPRESSED PUBLIC DISAPPOINTMENT WITH MEXICAN VOTE. PRIVATELY, THEY ARE FURIOUS WITH WHAT SOME HAVE CALLED A DOUBLECROSS BY ECHEVERRIA. (AT LEAST ONE MAJOR NEWSPAPER WITH HEAVY JEWISH READERSHIP HAS IN FACT USED THE TERM DOUBLECROSS IN ITS HEADLINE.) JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE TOURIST TRAVEL BY JEWS, AND OTHERS SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE, TO MEXICO AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORTED THE ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTIONS. EDELSBERG ASSERTS THAT THE PHONE CALLS AND LETTERS RECEIVED BY JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS INDICATE THAT INTEREST AND SYMPATHY FOR THE JEWISH POSITION ON THIS ISSUE IS INTENSE EVEN OUTSIDE THE JEWISH COMMUNITY.

3. THERE IS CONCERN AMONG SOME JEWISH LEADERS THAT CONTINUATION OF THE BOYCOTT IS POTENTIALLY PREJUDICIAL TO THE MEXICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND TO RECENTLY CONCLUDED ISRAELI-MEXICAN AGREEMENTS (MEXICO 10951), AND EDELSBERG REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT'S OPINIONS. DEPARTMENT OFFICER RESPONDED THAT MEXICAO HAS NO HISTORY OF ANTI-SEMITISM. TO THE CONTRARY MEXICO HAS ALWAYS WELCOMED JEWS AND HAS PROVIDED THEM WITH UNRESTRICTED OPPORTUNITIES. HENCE, IT WOULD NOT BE IN CHARACTER FOR MEXICO TO TAKE MEASURES HARMFUL TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN MEXICO. REGARDING POSSIBLE JEOPARDY TO ISRAELI-MEXICAN RELATIONS DEPOFF OPINED THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT ANY AGREEMENT (E.G. AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT) CONCLUDED OR IN THE OFFING BETWEEN TWO NATIONS IS BASED ON A PERCEPTION OF MUTUAL BENEFIT, AND HENCE WOULD NOT MAKE ONE NATION A HOSTAGE OF THE OTHER. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD BE RATHER FAR AFIELD FOR MEXICO TO BLAME ISRAEL FOR ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE NORTH AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY.

4. FYI: USG IS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE AND DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS. HENCE, WE ARE INITIATING NO ACTIONS, EVEN TO ELICIT INFORMATION, AND WHEN CALLED UPON BY ANY OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED WE ARE ONLY OFFERING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS OR, AT MOST, IMPRESSIONS OF THE STATE OF PLAY. WE ARE NOT GIVING EITHER GENERAL ADVICE OR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS. END FYI.

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